

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Kerry White, on February 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)
Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Virginia Court (D)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. John Fleming (D)
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lexi Goble, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HJ 9, 2/16/2017; HB 502, 2/16/2017; HB 481, 2/16/2017

HEARING ON HB 502

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:30 Rep. Jean Price (D), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 502, Clarify recreational prospecting exemption.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:13 Alma Winberry, Central Montana Prospectors Coalition

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a03\)](#)

00:11:24 Rep. Flynn joined the meeting

00:12:25 Gary Oler, Self

Opponents' Testimony:

00:14:19 Tammy Johnson, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

00:19:02 John Meyer, Self

Informational Testimony:

00:20:11 Christopher Dorrington, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:21:53 Rep. B. Brown

00:23:05 Rep. Price

00:23:34 Chair White

00:23:39 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

00:24:23 Rep. Fleming

00:25:22 Rep. Price

00:26:03 Rep. Manzella joined the meeting

00:26:16 Rep. Flynn

00:26:48 Rep. Price

00:27:11 Rep. Flynn

00:28:12 Rep. Price

00:28:28 Tammy Johnson, MMA

00:29:09 Rep. Flynn

00:29:43 Tammy Johnson, MMA

00:30:00 Rep. Gunderson

00:30:36 Tammy Johnson, MMA

00:31:00 Rep. Windy Boy

00:31:23 Rep. Price

Closing by Sponsor:

00:31:44 Rep. Price

HEARING ON HB 481**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:33:13 Rep. Bob Brown (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 481, Authorize local government to take action on wildfires.

Proponents' Testimony: None**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:35:06 Bruce Suewram, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
00:38:29 Rich Cowgor, Columbus Fire Department; Montana State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA)
00:42:12 Brad Mohn, Hamilton Fire Department
00:43:12 Ed Shindoll, Montana County Fire Wardens
00:43:59 Rod Bullis, Self
00:47:01 Audrey Walleser, Self
00:50:37 Richard Grady, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a04\)](#)

00:53:18 Kirk Hennefer, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a05\)](#)**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:55:01 Rep. Manzella
00:55:52 Brad Mohn, Hamilton Fire Department
00:58:13 Rep. Manzella
01:00:23 Rep. Curdy
01:01:02 Bruce Suewram, DNRC
01:02:03 Rep. Gunderson
01:02:16 Bruce Suewram, DNRC
01:03:20 Rep. Gunderson
01:03:36 Bruce Suewram, DNRC
01:04:15 Rep. Gunderson
01:04:33 Bruce Suewram, DNRC
01:05:11 Rep. Fitzgerald
01:06:02 Bruce Suewram, DNRC
01:07:13 Rep. Fitzgerald
01:07:39 Rep. B. Brown
01:09:31 Rep. Court Joined the meeting
01:09:54 Rep. Flynn
01:11:15 Rep. B. Brown
01:12:01 Rep. Curdy
01:12:51 Rep. B. Brown
01:13:12 Rep. Curdy
01:13:53 Rep. B. Brown
01:14:41 Rep. Manzella
01:15:25 Brad Mohn, Hamilton Fire Department
01:16:28 Rep. Manzella

01:16:38 Brad Mohn, Hamilton Fire Department
01:17:16 Chair White
01:18:01 Brad Mohn, Hamilton Fire Department
01:18:55 Chair White
01:19:56 Bruce Suewram, DNRC
01:20:24 Chair White
01:20:50 Bruce Suewram, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

01:21:28 Rep. B. Brown

01:25:22 Recess

01:34:06 Reconvene

HEARING ON HJ 9

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:34:39 Rep. Kerry White (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HJ 9, Resolution supporting the release of certain wilderness study areas.

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a07\)](#)

01:40:21 Rep. Curdy
01:40:45 Rep. Noland
01:41:03 Rep. Manzella

Proponents' Testimony:

01:41:27 Steve Slagle, Self
01:42:23 Rep. Court
01:46:02 Jessica Sena, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)
01:47:55 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
01:48:39 Jennifer Clark, Self
01:50:14 Jody Loomis, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a08\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a09\)](#)

01:52:51 Jennifer Loomis, Self
01:54:38 Jim Brown, Citizens of Balanced Use

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a10\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

02:05:23 Rob Gregoire, Self
02:09:27 Toney Burk, Self
02:12:41 Chris Marchion, Anaconda Sportsman
02:18:07 Shannon Wilson, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a11\)](#)

02:19:17 John Mumma, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a12\)](#)

02:26:21 Rep. Abbott

02:26:47 Kirk Thompson, Self

02:28:24 Chris Ennis, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a13\)](#)

02:29:26 Bill Cunningham, Self

02:33:12 Andy Hunthausen, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a14\)](#)

02:33:56 Steve Platt, Helena Hunters and Anglers

02:34:13 John Meyer, Self

02:35:41 Andrea Creel, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a15\)](#)

02:37:01 Rep. Flynn

02:38:17 Gene Sentz, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a16\)](#)

02:38:43 Jan Horan, Self

02:39:09 Roy Jacobs, Self

02:39:23 Heidi Buzzetti, Montana State University Wilderness Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a17\)](#)

02:39:33 Rep. Fleming

02:39:48 Jeff Lukas, Montana Chapter of Back Country Hunters and Anglers

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a18\)](#)

02:39:58 Nancy Ostlie, Great Old Broads for Wilderness

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a19\)](#)

02:40:27 Bill Hallinan, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a20\)](#)

02:40:50 Ken Brown, Back Country Horseman of Missoula

02:41:03 Bert Lindler, Self

02:41:23 Linda Healow, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a21\)](#)

02:41:43 Merlyne Huso, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a22\)](#)

02:42:14 Tim Horan, Self

02:42:57 Frances Galvin, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a23\)](#)

02:43:18 Irene Fries, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a24\)](#)

02:43:34 Howard Reid, Back Country Horseman of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a25\)](#)

02:43:58 Amanda Grant, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a26\)](#)

02:44:12 John Arnold, Head Hunters Fly Shop

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a27\)](#)

02:44:24 Bradley Jones, Self

02:44:39 Theresa Vore, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a28\)](#)

02:44:54 Grant Godbolt, Self

02:45:00 Charles Wideman, Self

02:45:18 Debra Hanneman, Self

02:45:35 Joe Naiman-Sessions, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a29\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a30\)](#)

02:45:51 Tom Kilmer, Self

02:46:26 Steven Johnson, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a31\)](#)

02:46:36 Sybert , Montana Wilderness Association

02:46:50 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

02:47:05 Austin Wrem, Montana State University Wilderness Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a32\)](#)

02:47:15 Dan Roper, Montana Audubon

02:47:28 Robert Hillyer, Self

02:47:47 Maryalice Chester, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a33\)](#)

02:48:09 Rick Kerr, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a34\)](#)

02:48:23 Anthony Pavkovich, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a35\)](#)

02:48:47 David Loufenberg

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a36\)](#)

02:49:12 Kyle Crapster, Self

02:49:26 Kristine Weaver, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a37\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a38\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah37a39\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:50:22	Rep. Windy Boy
02:51:02	Rep. Fleming
02:51:33	Chris Marchion, Anaconda Sportsman
02:52:23	Rep. Abbott
02:53:13	Chris Ennis, Self
02:54:23	Rep. Gunderson
02:55:07	Chris Ennis, Self
02:55:50	Rep. Gunderson
02:56:02	Rep. Curdy
02:56:17	Bill Cunningham, Self
02:58:57	Rep. Fleming
02:59:54	David Laufenberg, Self
03:00:19	Rep. Noland
03:00:41	Chair White
03:01:46	Rep. Noland
03:02:02	Chair White
03:02:53	Rep. Flynn
03:04:33	John Mumma, Self
03:08:57	Rep. Flynn
03:10:53	Rep. Manzella
03:11:06	Rep. Gunderson
03:13:23	Chris Marchion, Anaconda Sportsman
03:13:44	Rep. Curdy
03:16:39	Brian Sybert - Montana Wilderness Association
03:16:53	Rep. Windy Boy
03:17:28	Bill Hallinan, Self
03:18:20	Rep. Gunderson
03:19:22	Brian Sybert - Montana Wilderness Association

Closing by Sponsor:

03:20:07	Rep. White
03:22:58	Chair White
03:24:47	Rep. Curdy
03:25:45	Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
03:26:11	Chair White

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
03:28:13

Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah37aad.pdf](#))